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SIXTH UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE
STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
New York, 25 August-3 September 1992
Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

REPORTS BY DIVISIONS AND GOVERNMENTS ON THE SITUATION IN THEIR REGIONS AND COUNTRIES AND ON THE PROGRESS MADE IN THE STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES SINCE THE FIFTH CONFERENCE

Report of Kenya

Paper submitted by Kenya**

* E/CONF.85/1/Rev.1.

** Prepared by Joseph R. R. Aganyo, Survey of Kenya, Nairobi.

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1. Nearly 60 per cent of the territory of Kenya is covered by topographical maps at 1:50,000 scale, series Y731. So far over 500 sheets, of a total of about 800, have been published.

2. Similarly, nearly 60 per cent of the country is covered by 1:100,000-scale topographical maps, series Y633, consisting of 117 sheets. The series have, however, been discontinued and are being replaced by 1:50,000 topographical mapping.

3. The whole country is covered with 1:250,000 topographical mapping, series Y503, consisting of 47 sheets. The sheets are continually updated, using 1:50,000 topographical maps.

Status of standardization of geographical names

4. Since 1987, the main cartographical activity in Kenya has been in the extension and revision of 1:50,000 topographical maps. Among these have been 80 map sheets of the southern part of the country. Over approximately 5,000 place-names have been added or revised: this is in addition to the 9,000 place-names which had been processed by 1987. The additions or changes will be used in the production of the third edition of the national official standard names gazetteer; the second edition was produced in 1978.

5. The printing of the fourth edition of the National Atlas of Kenya has been completed; what remains is the binding. It has brief toponymic guidelines concerning the spelling of geograpahical names in Kenya, as stipulated by the Standing Committee on Geographical Names. In addition, a small gazetteer of approximately 2,000 place-names has been included.

6. It is important to note that the Survey of Kenya is currently installing computers at its Ruaraka offices in Nairobi to improve its mapping operations. The use of the computers for the creation of databases for geographical names and the automation of production of national gazetteers will certainly be given priority by the Survey of Kenya.

7. Production of the third edition of the national official standard names gazetteer may be unnecessarily delayed because of the current card index system employed. The system makes additions or deletions rather slow work, particularly where large volumes of place-names are involved. Lack of training in the science of geographical names is also among the constraints that hinder development of a core of experts in the standardization of geographical names.

Conclusions and recommendations

8. Kenya recognizes the importance of standardization of geographical names. It therefore pledges to support the efforts of the Sixth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names.

9. Kenya recognizes that lack of training in standardization of geographical names acts as a major constraint. Most offices hate to work in sections dealing with geographical names; they find it uninteresting possibly because they have not been trained in it.

10. It has been noted that the card index system is cumbersome and slow. With the acquisition of computers by the Survey, Kenya may consider computerizing the process of standardization of geographical names.

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Report of the Africa East Division

Submitted by the United Nations Group of Experts
on Geographical Names**

* E/CONF.85/1/Rev.1.

** Prepared by Joseph R. R. Aganyo, Survey of Kenya, Nairobi.

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1. The Africa East Division comprises Botswana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mauritius and Seychelles.

2. The Division was represented at the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, held at Montreal, Canada, in August 1987.

3. Though the Division has not held meetings since the Fifth Conference, activities in the standardization of geographical names have continued at various levels. Reports from the member countries reveal the status in those countries since the Montreal Conference and are summarized below.

Activities in the Division

Botswana

4. The Place-Names Commission has been actively engaged in nearly half of the villages in Botswana. It meets once a year in six or seven selected villages: the meetings are publicized. Since 1988 it has met over 50 times. It has examined maps at scales 1:50,000, 1:250,000 and 1:500,000 and a number of new reports, charts and maps prior to their publication.

5. The Commission checks the language, the local pronunciation, the recognized meaning and the historical background. As there are about 80 languages or dialects in Botswana, a recognized orthography has been published to help in the correct pronunciation of a name.

6. The Commissioners have worked tirelessly for the last three years and have produced the "Fourth Report of the Place-Names Commission", which is currently being studied by the Cabinet.

7. The Commission recognizes that it has a mammoth task ahead of it in the standardization of geographical names in Botswana.

Ethiopia

8. After the Fifth Conference, the Ethiopia Mapping Agency (EMA) established the Geographical Names Study and Gazetteer Panel at a divisional level, to be responsible for the collection, transliteration and dissemination of geographical names. The activities of the panel and its contacts with concerned government organizations concerning geographical names will be aimed at creating a National Names Authority. Until then it has set out to produce a preliminary concise gazetteer of Ethiopia and to revise the Amharic-to-English transliteration system already in use.

9. Ever since the Fifth Conference Ethiopia has aimed at producing a national gazetteer. A concise gazetteer of Ethiopia based on a 1:1,000,000 map has been prepared as a preliminary attempt, containing about 2,500

geographical names. This preliminary edition is distributed among government institutions for comments and suggestions with a view to publishing the first concise National Gazetteer.

10. The main focus is on producing a gazetteer series by administrative or autonomous region, based on the 1:50,000 scale topographic map of Ethiopia. These will finally be combined to form the National Gazetteer of Ethiopia using standardized geographical names.

Kenya

11. Activities related to standardization of geographical names have continued. It is estimated that over 5,000 place-names have been processed by the Standing Committee on Geographical Names since the Fifth Conference. A revised copy of the gazetteer and a card index for new and amended names continue to be maintained for the purpose of publishing the third edition of the gazetteer.

12. It should be noted that the Survey of Kenya is currently installing computers at its Ruaraka offices in Nairobi to improve its mapping operations. The use of computers in the creation of databases for geographical names and the automation of the national gazetteer production will certainly be given priority by the Survey of Kenya.

Malawi

13. Malawi has not as yet set up any national committee on the standardization of geographical names; hence the exercise on standardizing names has not been started. The Commissioner of Surveys is however hopeful that he will sensitize his Government to view favourably the formation of a national committee on the standardization of geographical names.

Mozambique

14. Dinageca, the National Directorate for Geography and Cadastre is the government body that coordinates all activities concerned with toponymy. In this context, Dinageca has been involved in toponymic activities as follows:

(a) Description and updating of cartographic names and settlements according to the first toponymic file published during the Portuguese administration early in 1973, taking into account the new villages and towns established after independence in 1975;

(b) Revision of the toponymic dictionary published during the Portuguese administration period, taking into account the new villages and towns established, or those which changed their names after independence, as well as the new territorial division dating from 1986;

(c) In 1990, an investigation in which one technician took part about changes in population centres in each province and district, which resulted in the publication of a book entitled Evolution of Toponymy and Territorial Division between 1974 and 1987;

(d) Exchange of toponymic information between Dinageca and the Commission of Toponymy of the National Geographic Institute (IGN) of France and the United States Board on Geographic Names.

Swaziland

15. Swaziland has a Place-Names Committee, which has not met for years. It is still hoped that it will be revived.

United Republic of Tanzania

16. The United Republic of Tanzania established a National Geographical Names Standardization Committee in 1982. No report has been received on its activities since the Fifth Conference.

Uganda

17. Since the Third Conference in Athens in 1977 no report has been received from Uganda.

Zambia

18. A Standing Committee to advise the Government on matters related to geographical names was appointed in 1978. However, since the Fifth Conference no report has been received regarding its activities.

Zimbabwe

19. Zimbabwe has a Geographical Names Standing Committee (GNSC) of which the Surveyor-General is the Chairman. The situation of the standardization of geographical names in Zimbabwe will be adequately covered by the Chairman of GNSC when submitting his country's national report to the Sixth Conference.

Mauritius

20. There is no established list of geographical names of the island. However, a compilation of a preliminary list of the main geographical names of the island and its territories extracted from the toponymy of the new 1:25,000 map series is expected to be prepared. It will consist of official names that are approved by the Government. These names usually originate from official records, including maps, and some of them have a strong historical background.

21. It is apparent that there is no established committee charged with the responsibility of processing geographical names in Mauritius.

Other member countries of the Division

22. No information has been received from other member countries of the Division, namely Lesotho, Madagascar and Seychelles, but it is expected that activities in the field of standardization of geographical names is still continuing.

Training

23. There is an urgent need to hold a training course or a seminar in the Africa East Division to start nurturing a nucleus of experts in the field of standardization of geographical names. In this regard Kenya is still interested in hosting a toponymic training course for the Division in pursuance of resolution V/21 of the Fifth Conference on education and training.

Conclusions and recommendations

24. Standardization of geographical names is at varying levels within the Division: some member countries have well-established functional committees while others have none. At the heart of it is lack of recognition by policy makers, with the result that no funds are allocated for its sustenance in a society with many competing needs.

25. It is also important to point out that not many people in Government in the developing countries appreciate the importance of standardization of geographical names. It is thus incumbent upon the United Nations to publicize the importance of standardization. One way would be to hold regular training courses or seminars in the Division; another by regularly sending out newsletters, circulars and documents to the member countries for information and appraisal on issues on this subject.

26. It is hoped by Kenya that member States of the Africa East Division will exert more effort to work together to see that the existing organs dealing with standardization of geographical names are strengthened or revitalized in order to achieve the desired goals.

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ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL BENEFITS OF THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

Promoting a geographical names programme

Submitted by Australia**

* E/CONF.85/1/Rev.1.

** Prepared by Brian Goodchild, Secretary, Committee for Geographical Names.

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1. The following nine points are of interest in promoting and obtaining funding for a national names authority.

1. Identifying and using political sources

2. Politicians usually represent local areas and look after local interests in order to maintain their popularity. Names are often emotive issues and identity is important to people. When a local government sought to change a suburban name in Perth some years ago some 1,500 people turned out in a public meeting to protest. The local politician enthusiastically embraced the cause, recognizing the public interest. This interest on the part of politicians should be greatly encouraged.

3. Some years ago the Committee was contacted by a state politician with an interest in indigenous names. We promptly undertook to keep him informed of any developments in this area and sought his support in larger areas. Such interest and support has been shown to be mutually beneficial.

4. Another politician is a keen local historian, and we have supplied information from files and maps, which he has keenly accepted. Again the support is worth while, even as long-term insurance.

2. Cultural and heritage programmes

5. Cultural and heritage programmes are important sources of funds, and they are worth cultivating. Geographical names are just as important an aspect of heritage as, for instance, buildings, often out-surviving any building, and this aspect should be made clear to relevant authorities. Research into names is costly and time consuming, and heritage programmes are one source of funds that can support such research.

6. Original names from Aboriginal peoples are often the most significant ethnic identifier of the people of a country (e.g. American Indian names, Australian Aboriginal names), and there is a pride in such names that will support their preservation and enable funds to be made available.

3. Mapping programmes

7. Most geographical names authorities have a close association with a mapping authority, and it is important to identify aspects of mapping programmes utilizing geographical names and to endeavour to associate these closely with the names authority. In our own organization there is a strong link, the names staff supplying names for maps, editing maps and text and assisting with the compilation of a road directory. Staff have been made available to the Committee because of these programmes, and it is a bonus that they are available for names work also.

4. Government employment projects

8. From time to time some Governments allocate funds to projects developed to reduce unemployment. Usually of a limited life, and designed to be labour-intensive with minimal capital costs, such projects represent ideal opportunities for names authorities. A typical project would be data input to a gazetteer, where there is a large volume of names to be entered. It is useful to be prepared for such occasions, although admittedly they are a rarity.

5. Using publicity to advantage

9. This is probably the most important of the nine points made in this paper and the one through which the most impact can be achieved. Excellent success has been achieved in this area, and while more could have been done had there been more time, any time spent is beneficial. There is great human interest in geographical names, and contacts with newspaper and magazine writers should be sought out and cultivated. Even if articles are not complimentary, they draw attention to the matter and are still valuable.

10. In a local newspaper a columnist writes humorous anecdotes, and from time to time information on names is given to him. A television weatherman has a keen interest in names and is supplied information that enables him to add extra points of interest when describing the weather in a region.

11. The value of a good names controversy should not be underestimated also. Contentious issues, such as replacing a prominent name with an earlier indigenous one, while difficult to resolve, are very valuable in drawing attention to the value of a names authority. There was one names authority chairman who actually encouraged a controversial naming matter because he recognized the value of the publicity.

6. Education

12. Staff in names authorities should be prepared to spread the message regarding names programmes: educating the public about the value of such programmes can contribute greatly to ensuring that the work continues or is enhanced. As the Committee's Secretary, I speak on a regular basis to school and community groups about the "heritage of Western Australian place-names", and there is a keen interest in these talks and a lot of feedback. It is worth while spending time in preparing information and developing one's skills at public speaking. It is not a daunting task when the speaker is familiar with his subject, and this is often the case with names authority staff.

7. Land information databases

13. With the rapid growth of databases in recent years it is critical that names authorities work to ensure that the geographical names part of the databases are kept within their control, and in fact become an essential part of the database. The key is to make sure that other government agencies will come to rely on the names authority to supply up to date names information and to be prepared for new initiatives in this field. The difficulty will be to keep up with new developments; but the value of doing so should not be underestimated.

14. If your names database is good and reliable, promote it widely, if it's not, bring it up to scratch as soon as possible; or be left behind.

8. Military requirements

15. The military require accurate names information for their mapping requirements, probably more than any other organization. A good relationship with them is essential and they can be used to keep pressure on Government to ensure that names programmes are supported. They often have their own programmes which may or may not link up with the names authorities, and if not, this should be worked on.

16. It is also important to identify key personnel in the military, and keep them informed of names activities in order to develop good understanding and obtain their support.

9. Language programmes

17. Language is a vital part of the culture of a country, and place-names are identified as a significant component of cultural identity. Every effort should be made to promote place-names as an aspect of language and to target funds made available for language programmes. Such programmes are usually based in academic institutions, and while funds may not be directly available to a names authority, research projects can be promoted that indirectly benefit the authority. There are many such projects available suitable for master's or doctorate courses, and it is very valuable to establish strong relationships with relevant academic institutions.

Summary

18. In the foregoing notes, some nine areas of significance in promoting a names programme are identified, but there is one ingredient of far greater importance: enthusiasm. It is only when relevant staff are totally committed to a programme and can enthusiastically sell it to all and sundry, that support can be obtained from whatever source. Support may well come from an area distinct from those noted, but it will be there if the programme is successfully sold. Be prepared to go out on a limb, take risks and attempt the impossible because you believe in what you are doing.

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NATIONAL STANDARDIZATION: TOPONYMIC GUIDELINES FOR MAP AND OTHER EDITORS

Toponymic guidelines for Australia (Second Edition)

Paper submitted by Australia**

* E/CONF.85/1/Rev.1.

** Prepared by V. T. O'Brien, Chairman, Place Names Committee of Northern Territory.

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TOPONYMIC GUIDELINES FOR AUSTRALIA

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TOPONYMIC GUIDELINES FOR AUSTRALIA

1. INTRODUCTION

Whilst attempts were made on the eve of Federation in 1900 to provide for a uniform spelling of native names of places in the colonies by the Royal Geographical Society in London, there were discussions subsequently, by those familiar with geographic name standardisation, about a "co-ordinated authority". But this did not occur and Australia became a party to a Permanent Committee on Geographic Names in the United Kingdom subsequent to World War I in 1919. After World War II, the emergence the Division of National Mapping came about under the Department of National Resources and its National Mapping Council which provided for some form of national approach to mapping and map standards.

The evolution of State legislation on nomenclature commencing in 1905 with New South Wales after Federation, gave responsibility to the States and Territory in the ensuing 40 years to 1945, for the day to day administration of geographic name approvals in each State. The co-ordination of the national principles, inherent in geographic name standardisation, resided with the former Division of National Mapping in post war years.

The United Nations Group of Experts on Geographic Names in Montreal in 1987, in its resolutions, drew attention to the need for nations, including Australia, to formulate a set of Toponymic Guidelines relevant to this nation for adoption. It has been left to Australia to develop a set of principles and policies governing the

choice, spelling, form and application of geographic place names in Australia.

Australia has recognised since its Bicentenary in 1988, and its founding as a British settlement, that the languages of its indigenous people have contributed to a major degree to the evolution of its geographic place names. Whilst English has been the predominant language, a study of Aboriginal languages in use in Australia has taken more prominence in recent years and when these are developed, recognition of these languages on traditional lands will follow. Toponymic Guidelines to this degree should therefore account for these languages, their study and the integration of Aboriginal place names in Australia, which should be recorded as part of the Australian Language which has developed out of its colonial past 200 years ago.

2. **NAMES AUTHORITIES**

(1) Recognising that Federation in 1900 brought the six States and the Northern Territory under six jurisdictions and the Federal Government of the Commonwealth of Australia, the following State and Territory nomenclature bodies were formed in 1905 and subsequently to 1945 as follows:-

(a) **New South Wales**

Board of Geographic Names	1905
Geographic Names Board of NSW	1966

(b) **Queensland**

Place Names Committee	1920
Queensland Place Names Board	1958

(Functions transfered to Surveyor-General)

(c) **Victoria**

Survey Co-ordination (Place Names) Act	1965
Place Names Committee	1966

(d) **Tasmania**

Advisory Board to the Surveyor-General	1950
Nomenclature Board of Tasmania	1953

(e) **South Australia**

Nomenclature Committee under SA	
Nomenclature Act	1917
Geographic Names Board of SA	1970

(f) **Western Australia**

Nomenclature Advisory Committee	1936
Geographic Names Committee	1987

(g) **Australian Capital Territory**

National Memorials Committee	1928

(h) **Northern Territory**

Nomenclature Committee	1945
Place Names Committee	1968

(2) **Special Advisory Committees**

(a) Antarctic Names & Polar Medal Committee of Australia (ANCA)

Under External Affairs in 1952 and reconstituted in 1975.

(b) Department of Defence - ARMY - Foreign Names

Under the above Department ensuring no ambiguity in place names on foreign maps.

(c) Department of Defence - NAVY

Matters concerning Hydrographic charts.

(d) Australian Surveying & Land Information Group (AUSLIG), Canberra ACT

Important map producer and user of geographical names, but relies on State and Territory nomenclature bodies in 1. above to determine details on actual local place names.

(e) Great Barrier Reef Place Names Committee

Established in 1984 as a Board under the Great Barrier Reef Marine Authority to administer the reef and place names thereon.

A comprehensive guide to Place Names Authorities, their officers and addresses and their legislation has been prepared in Western Australia by CGNA.

3. **COMMITTEE FOR GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES IN AUSTRALASIA**

Established in Perth in 1984, out of a desire of the State and Territory Nomenclature bodies to meet annually or biannually to discuss and resolve common problems in Australia on the standardisation of geographic names.

Its functions include -

(a) National standardisation.

(b) Developing a national gazetteer, exchanging nomenclature data.

(c) Co-ordinating the writing and spelling of Aboriginal Place Names.

(d) International nomenclature activities, including liaison with the United Nations Committee of Experts on Geographic Names.

4. **NAMES GOVERNED BY STATUTORY AUTHORITY**

Names in Australia of municipalities, divisions, reserves or parks etc, created by or from legislation since federation, the appropriate State/Territory or Commonwealth Government shall be accepted.

Where new administrative divisions of a State or Territory are contemplated, as a general rule, these matters should be channelled through the State nomenclature body and appropriate Ministers of the Government for decision as to the names to be adopted.[1] [2]

5. **NAMES FOR PUBLIC UTILITIES, POST OFFICES, RAILWAYS ETC**

Whilst there are differing approaches to these issues within the States and Territories, the main principle would be early consultation with the local nomenclature body and the planning elements of the appropriate State Department to enable a common approach to a name decision, if they are in keeping with other naming principles. Use of the same postal name, for example, in different States has been avoided in earlier years by the then Postmaster General. As a general rule or guide, some examination of the local utility and legislation governing its administration, plus consultation with the local nomenclature body, Local Council

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[1] *Extracted from Canada - Principle 1 - see "Manual for the Field Collection of geographical place Names"*

[2] *Extracted from United Kingdom - Principle 3 - "Principles of Geographic Nomenclature"*

and State Government will provide the guide to a naming process.[3]

6. **OFFICIAL LANGUAGE(S)**

Some English speaking nations do not have an official national language, as is the case with the United States. Canada, of course, by its *Constitutional Act of 1982*, recognises two official languages there, English and French - only one Province is officially bi-lingual (New Brunswick) and only one is unilingual (Quebec).

In Australia, there appears to be no official national language, although like other national varieties of English, Australian English shares many features with English in the United Kingdom. The Australian Encyclopaedia quotes:

"Australian English has developed many features of its own. It has an independent status as a language of its community and it has become more and more firmly established. It first attracted attention as a variety of English from about 1820 onwards, but its reputation has most almost always been bad. Lord Casey, a Governor General spoke of English being "tortured" in Australia, but Vance Palmer spoke of Australian speech as "direct, unaffected and not hard on the ear"."

E Morris produced an important dictionary "*Austral English*" in 1898 to show that British English had altered since it came to Australia. Whilst there have been many more recent "Australianisms" being collected in books on the "Australian Language", there have been some with a strong attempt at a declaration of

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[3] *Exracted from Canada - Principle 3 - "Manual for the Field Collection of Geographical Place Names"*

independence on behalf of the Australian language.

It could be that Australia as a nation should now make moves to adopt Australian English as its national language and it will be necessary to define what are the elements of "an Australian language" and whether they should adopt English and Aboriginal words as part of that language apart from Aboriginal languages in their own right spoken in Australia.

Whilst nomenclature bodies are tending towards adoption of an "Australian English" as a national language, English and Aboriginal languages are spoken in Australia. Federal Government acceptance of the principle of an "Australian Language" and its definition will be needed before this Guideline is effective.

7. **PRINCIPLES OF NOMENCLATURE (OR GEOGRAPHIC NAMING)**

Each State and Territory through its own nomenclature body determines its rules and guidelines, but many of the published rules were derived from earlier State and overseas guidelines. Many recognise "present day usage" of names, each State having an inherent interest in their own names and in most cases consideration is given to the earliest use of a name and its historical significance where later variants are used. Some States may be more specific about individual rules, but one guiding principle would be cases where a feature name has not yet been recommended as official, it should confirm to "accepted principles of geographic name standardisation".[4 5 6 7]

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[4] *Derived from Canada, 2.1 - see Toponymic Guidelines*

"The Committee for Geographical Names in Australia" considered in 1986 at Adelaide a submission and recommendation (21/1986) for "a corporate policy for each body outlining its general policies and aims. Whilst most States agreed, some had mixed views about such a proposal. In summary, States are able to accept their own principles, but many general ones outlined are commonly used by most authorities. Where they are not specifically incorporated in State legislation, the herein Australian principles are set down as guidelines for acceptance in their absence.

8. **OFFICIAL NAMES**

The written form of a place name approved by a Geographic or Place Names Board for use in a State or a National Gazetteer or for official purposes is deemed to be "an official name". Whilst such names vary in percentage of the total names in use in a State, this will depend to a degree on the progress being made with State Gazetteer implementation and the ability of the Place Names Boards to enhance their Geographic Information System and to increase the volume of official names.

Where there has been a decision or a formal act by a Board or a Minister or his delegate under a *Place Names Act*, then these names, their spelling and form will

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[5] *Derived from Canada, Principle 2 - see "Manual for the Field Collection of Geographic Names"*

[6] *Derived from United States 3.3 - "Toponymic Guidelines"*

[7] *Derived from CGNA Recommendation 21/1986 - Corporate Policy for various Geographic Names Boards*

be classed as officially named. Documentation of these "official names" and their gazettal date are essential for the record to enable these decisions to be reviewed if these official names are to be changed in the future.[8]

9. **CAPITALISATION**

Where Geographic or Place Names Boards in Australia indicate by the standard spelling of each place name in capitals, all words considered part of a proper geographic name should be capitalised, including all adjectives, common nouns and the definite article. Variations of the binomial form include names that require a capitalised article "The" when written. Some exceptions to the rule of capitalisation may occur including articles e.g. "Rock of Ages" and prepositions in multiple word complex names if they are used as official names.[9]

10. **NAMING OF ENTIRE FEATURE & IDENTIFYING ITS EXTENT**

A decision on a geographical name proposal for a physical feature should specify the limits of the feature to which the name applies (e.g. Barkly Tableland, Great Sandy Desert). If the feature lies totally within a State, the nature of the decision by the Authority will determine how the feature is gazetted - by diagram indicating its extent etc.[10]

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[8] *Extract from United States of America, Para 3.4 - see "Toponymic Guidelines"*

[9] *Extract from United States of America, para 3.6 - "Toponymic Guidelines"*

[10] *Extract from Canada - Principle 4 - "Manual for the Collection of Geographic Names"*

11. **NAMING FEATURES CROSSING STATE OR TERRITORY BOUNDARIES**

Arising from the co-ordinated approach to common problems by the State and Territory authorities at Bathurst, "The Committee of Geographical Names in Australia" meeting in 1985 resolved to recommend -

"That the name for any feature which crosses a State/Territory boundary should be the same on both sides. The basis for the selection of an established name for such a feature should be consensus between the relevant States and primary responsibility for obtaining consensus should rest with the State in which the feature was first named."[11]

12. **PERSONAL NAMES**

The use of personal names should not be given to a geographical feature unless such application is in the public interest. The person commemorated should have contributed significantly to the area where the feature is located; when such a name is applied, it should normally given posthumously. The adoption of a personal name during the lifetime of a person concerned should only be made in exceptional circumstances. Ownership of the land should not in itself be grounds for the application of the owner's name to a geographical feature.[12]

13. **FORM AND CHARACTER OF NAMES**

Geographic Names should be recognisable words or acceptable combination of words and should be in good taste.[13]

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[11] *CGNA - Resolutions 1/1986 and 2/1986*

[12] *Extract from Canada - Principle 7 - "Manual for Field Collection of Geographic Names"*

[13] *Extract from Canada - Principle 7 - "Manual for the Field Collection of Geographical Names"*

14. **ELECTORAL NAMES**

In America, political subdivisions often have an official/legal name "City of Denver" etc and whilst the Board of Geographic Names identifies normally "one name, one spelling", an exception to the principle occurs in the names of political subdivision.

In Australia, the shape of electorates changes with State and Federal redistributions etc and the majority of States and Federal electorates are usually applied under the various Electoral Acts, as distinct from names applied by any Place Names authority within a State. Such names and their origin and meaning are usually derived by the Electoral Authorities, either State or Federal.[14] [15]

15. **OCEANOGRAPHIC FEATURES**

Where oceanographic features lie outside the territorial waters of Australia, descriptive terms entering into their names shall be in English.[16]

16. **HYDROGRAPHIC FEATURES**

"The Royal Australian Navy Hydrographic Service's nomenclature task has both national and international responsibilities. These responsibilities were spelt out in general terms, in National Mapping Council Resolution 393 which was adopted in the early 1980's. Since that date the RAN's nomenclature task has evolved

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[14] *Extract from United States of America, Para 3.3 - "Toponymic Guidelines"*

[15] *Extract from Electoral Acts of NT and SA, Para 6.6*

[16] *Derived from United Kingdom - "Permanent Committee on Geographical Names"*

further".[17]

Resolution 393 - Limits of Oceans and Seas resolved among other principles that in the case of Hydrographic features in territorial waters, the responsibility for naming the feature rest with the appropriate State or Commonwealth body depending on which State or Territory exercises jurisdiction over the area.

In internal waters, the responsibility of naming the feature rests with the appropriate State or Commonwealth body. In adopting names for coastal features, nomenclature bodies take into account the names existing on hydrographic charts and used by mariners for many years.

17. **ABORIGINAL TOPONYMY**

The first draft edition of Toponymic Guidelines for Australia gave particular attention to this subject and the spelling of indigenous place names in Australia, as have the State meetings of the Committee of Geographical Names in Australia since 1985.

Earlier Rules on Indigenous Names issued by the Royal Geographical Society in London as Geographic 1 and Geographic 2 were issued in 1884 and 1921 [18]. Later by 1968, the Australian institute of Aboriginal Studies formed in 1964

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[17] *Nomeclature Functions of RAN Hydrographic Service - Capt J J Doyle, 1990*

[18] *Extract from Royal Geographical Society, London "Rules for the Guidance of spelling Indigenous Nmaes", Geographic 1, 1889: Geographic 2, 1921.*

attempted to promote uniformity with their "AIAS Convention for representing Tribal and Language Names" [19] as a guide to how trbal names and Aboriginal language names should be spelt.

In post World War 2 years, Australia established it's National Mapping Council and recommended in 1966 "Procedures for Recording of Nomenclature on a National Basis". This provided some guide to aboriginal names already adopted on our maps andd how they should be portrayed.

Whilst policy guidelines on Aboriginal names have been of concern to State members of CGNA in Australia only their Recommendation 26/1986 has been tabled and is yet to be accepted by all States. In 1992, further draft policy statements and guidelines for the recording and use of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Place Names were circulated and are to be discussed. Hopefully whilst a great deal has to be done by linguists, toponymists etc in the field, the main work on indigenous place names documentation evident in Canada and South Africa, is leading States like South Ausralia, towards positive moves in the form of acceptance by Australian nomenclature bodies and towards a formal document as an integral part of our Toponymic Guidelines in Australia.

The interim draft guidelines on aboriginal place names in Australia, tabled in 1986, plus those mentioned above will form the basis of our Australian guidelines

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[19] *"AIAS Convention for Representing Tribal and Language Names, 1968" National Mapping Council, Australia - "Recommended Practices for the Recording of Nomenclature on a National Basis, 1966"*

on aboriginal toponymy and are listed on the below:-

(a) Aboriginal names be preferred.

(b) Aboriginal names be actively sought; old records be collected by linguists and worked on in relation to their language origin Aboriginal names still known by Aboriginal people be collected by linguists or Aboriginal people literate in their own language as a matter or urgency; new Aboriginal names be applied to unnamed geographical features, in consultation with local Aboriginal communities.

(c) Incorrectly spelt Aboriginal names be corrected, either by dual naming for a period, or in some other non-threatening way, or by decree - but nevertheless, that they be corrected.

(d) Guidelines for orthography be drawn up by linguists as a standard to be aimed at, as old names (especially those from extinct languages) are worked on with a view to ascertaining their originally phonetic or phonemic form. (Comparative linguists can throw some light on old records.)

(e) Every effort be made to educate the public in both the meaning/significance and correct pronunciation of names, while at the time acknowledging that fully correct pronunciation may never be achieved, given the vast differences between Aboriginal languages phonemic inventories and that of Australian English.

(f) Known Aboriginal names to features which have more recently been given English names, be written into maps with the latter

names, with a view to eventual reversion to the original Aboriginal name. These names also to be actively sought for recording.

(g) Convenience not to be a criterion of altering names, given the inconvenience caused to Aboriginal people over 200 years.

(h) Creeks to be allowed to have their various names, in the course of their journey.

(i) Compounds of English and Aboriginal language terms to be avoided at all costs, whereas the use of an Aboriginal language term followed by an English generic term is acceptable.

(j) No Aboriginal language term from one area be applied in another area.

(k) The language source of the name be noted carefully in all records, along with the correct phonetic realisation of the name (according to a standard system of phonetics) and all other relevant information concerning the place.

(l) English generic terms be applied to translate language terms for "hill" and "creek", but not as a policy to translate other terms, each case being treated individually however.

(m) Spellings be obtained from speakers in their own language's orthography or from linguists.

(n) Non-standard characters or marks be replaced.

(o) Adjustments be made on consultation with the local Aboriginal people and with their linguist, if a given form is under threat of mispronunciation by the wider public.

Recommendation 27/1986 in Adelaide subsequently drew attention to the listing of 29 resolutions passed from the Canadian Practice Names Symposium in Ottawa in 1986 which drew attention to the relevance of some of these resolutions to Aboriginal place names and their use in Australia.

18. **DUAL NAMING**

Dual naming is emerging in certian areas already, particularly in the Northern Territory, where the effects of grants to traditional owners under the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act* in 1989 in some cases, the Aboriginal people has leased back their area to a National Parks body to enable all Australians to enjoy the Park, such as the named "Nitmiluk/Katherine Gorge National Park". Out of deference to the original European name given by McDouall Stuart in 1862, The dual name is used to identify the European "Katherine Gorge" for the benifit of European tourists along with the Aboriginal name "Nitmiluk". The dual name process was also mentioned in the Turnbridge recommendations of 1986.

In South Africa, where their Toponymic Guidelines were introduced at the 15th Session of UNGEGN at Geneva, dual forms are used.

"English and Africaan are the official languages and one may expect a large number of place names that are used in one language also to be used in a translated form in another language. In the course of time dual forms of names have established themselves for the same places. .....

In terms of the country's policy on bilingualism the members of each language group have the right to insist on the form they use in the natural context of their

language."[20]

Discussion at ICOS 17 at Helsinki in 1990 between Australian and Canadian members led to Canada's decision [21] at Halifax included some dual naming principles:-

(1) the principle of dual /alternate naming be accepted in the Aboriginal context, except in the case of populated areas;

(2) the status of each name in the dual/alternate context be clearly specified;

(3) the use of the dual and/or alternate names be given further consideration especially in the context of -

  (a) use of the English generic either as an addition or as a replacement for the Aboriginal generic: and

  (b) possible orthographic adaptations of the name: and

(4) gazetteers incorporating aboriginal names should always cross reference dual and/or alternate names.

Australia's moves into dual naming to cater for the aboriginal place names and those derived in English appear in Victoria in the Grampian Mountains and in National Parks leased by Aboriginals in the Northern Territory. Some of these principles above are being addressed in our draft guidelines.

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[20] *Extract from South Africa - "Toponymic Guidelines for Maps and other Editions" , Peter Raper, 1991*

[21] *"Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names" - Advisory Committee on Toponymic Research - Principles, Halifax, October 1990.*

19. **SPELLING OF NAMES**

In general terms, past British practices in which Australia participated as a Member of the Permanent Committee on Geographic Names adopted their Principle 1 which indicated that:-

"The spelling of the names of (a) regions and geographical features of continental or inter-mational extension (b) water areas extending beyond the territorial limits of recognised government and (c) countries, shall be in accordance with English conventional usage."

Again Principle 5 indicated that:-

"The names of places and of geographical features in countries which officially use varieties of the Roman alphabet shall be accepted in their official spelling, including accents and diacritical marks used in the respective alphabets."

The Canadian spelling standards where English and French are used indicate that:-

"The spelling and accenting of names should agree with the rules of the language in which they are written." (Principle 9)

20. **GENITIVE APOSTROPHE**

"The use of the genitive apostrophe should be approved when well established and in current usage." (Principle 9 - Canada). The CGNA in Adelaide in 1986 recommended (Resolution 3/1986) that the South Australian Guidelines for the use of the apostrophe be adopted.[22] The preferred guidelines are:-

(1) *Surnames used for geographical features - delete the "s" unless part of the name, or if the name is also descriptive.*

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[22] *CGNA Resolution 3/1986 - South Australian Guidelines, 1986*

(2) *Surnames for man made cultural features - delete "s" unless the euphony becomes harsh or unless possession is implied.*

(3) *Christian names used for geographical features - delete the "s" except where the name is abbreviated or corrupted and retention of the "s" improves the euphony.*

(4) *Christian names used for cultural features, usually privately owned dams, wells etc in pastoral country - possibly no control should be exercised over these names, but the "s" could be dropped if the euphony is satisfactory or retained.*

(5) *Names possibly signifying the plural should retain the "s".*

(6) *Names of a metamorphic or mythological nature should have the "s" retained.*

The American explanation of the above guidelines provides an insight into the basic objective:-

"The word or words that form a geographical or proper name are considered to have changed function and thereby become a single denotative unit."

21. **HYPHENATION**

"In English, hyphenation (and the genitive apostrophe) should be approved only when well established and in current usage." (Principle 9 - Canada). In the United States, "writing mark such as hyphens and apostrophes are occasionally used in official domestic geographical names, although there is a tendency to omit them whenever possible".

In Australia, the specific joining of place names is not usual and not a critical

issue. State nomenclature bodies are free to accept hyphenated words or place names, where in local usage they have been adopted.

22. **DIACRITICAL MARKS (MACRONS)**

In Australia, the use of diacritical marks is not considered to be a noticeable problem here as in the English language such marks are almost never used at all in place names. In South Australia, where Nicolas Baudin in 1802 applied many French names to their coast, some of which remain, for historical reasons, such place names can be used when the commemoration of French nationals is to be recorded.

South Australia, along with other States and the Northern Territory, also have drawn attention to the fact that "some Aboriginal orthographies devised in recent years may have made use of diacritical marks. For these particular instances, State Place and Geographic Names Boards are at liberty to adopt their use, but in general terms, there appears to be no common desire to adopt diacritical marks, where English language use in Australia does not require them, except only in particular cases.[23]

See also the NZ paper on macrons to CGNA, August 1990.

23. **UNIFORMITY OF SPELLING**

"Names of the same origin applying to various service facilities in a community should conform in spelling with the official names of the community. Names with

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[23] *CGNA Resolution on Aboriginal Toponymy, 1987 and 1987*

the same specific for associated features should agree in spelling".[24]

"A geographical name usually includes both a specific and a generic element. The generic term in a newly approved geographical name should be appropriate to the nature of the feature. Its position in the name should be dictated by euphony and usage. The generic term will be recorded by the name authority concerned."

24. **GENERIC TERMINOLOGY**

Australia is following the particular lead taken by Canada in compiling and publishing in 1987 in their country, a complete set of generic terms used by them. Western Australia has commenced on compiling a listing of generic terms and "unusual designators" in use in Australia, the latter in conjunction with the other States and Territory. Recommendation 25/1986 from the "Committee for Geographical Names in Australia (CGNA)" in Adelaide raised the issue of the listing of "unusual designators (unique generics) used in Australia" to enable effective liaison on the responsibility for the definition of cartographic terms, recognising that expert advice should be sought from geographers of the future.

It was agreed that the matter merits further investigation and that with the demise of the National Mapping Council Technical Advisory Committee, CGNA should establish a group to move towards the compilation of an Australian listing of generic terms (and unusual Australian designators) in use. Some important work on the definition of terms used in Toponymy, including generic terms has already been done at the Indonesian Workshop on Toponymy in 1989 by Professor F J

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[24] *Extract from Canada - Principle 10 - "Manual for the Field Collection of Geographical Names"*

Ormerling of the Netherlands. Generic Terminology is an important issue in the national mapping of Australia and a CGNA objective could be that an entry in a listing of Australian generic terms should provide a short definition of the generic term, observations on its use, related terms etc.

The Canadian principle provides an acceptable definition of the above term -

"A geographical name usually includes both a specific and a generic element. The generic term in a newly approved geographical name should be appropriate to the nature of the feature. Its position in the name should be dictated by euphony and usage. The generic term will be recorded by the name authority concerned."[25]

25. **QUALIFYING TERMINOLOGY - THE USE OF**

In Australia, qualifying words are often used top distinguish adjectival modifiers between two branches of a creek, which have identical specific forms. This principle derived from Canada is appropriate for use in Australia and defines what is used generally in practice in State mapping circles.

"Qualifying words may be used to distinguish between two or more similar features with identical specific forms. Such words may be derived from other local names or features, or may be terms such as "upper, new, west branch" etc. Wherever possible, however, new names should be distinctive."[26]

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[25] *Extract from Canada - Principle 12 - "Manual for the Field Collection of Geographical Names"*

[26] *Extract from Canada - Principle 13 - "Manual for the Field Collection of Geographical Names"*

26. **DUPLICATION**

In Australia, the principle of avoiding State duplication of names is usually maintained within the State, but the adoption of this principle on a national basis is probably not yet accepted where State nomenclature bodies are responsible legislatively for matters of duplication of nomenclature only within their State.

"Where established names are duplicated or are similar in sound or spelling and tend to cause confusion, local assistance will be obtained to achieve distinction among them. In giving new names, duplication to the extent that confusion may result in a local community should be avoided."[27]

27. **ABBREVIATIONS**

In Australia, map makers have been encouraged to use their own abbreviations for generics, where space is limited and no official abbreviated forms have been documented for generics, although the former Division of National Mapping in its "Recommended Procedures for the Recording of Nomenclature on a National Basis" in 1966 set out abbreviated feature codes for computerisation in that year.

Probably, the most widely used Australian abbreviations accepted are the shortened form of the State/Territory names in postal addresses such as NSW, VIC, QLD, SA, WA, TAS and NT. National Mapping in former years accepted these abbreviations in the above-stated publication.

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[27] *Extract from Canada - Principle 11 - "Manual for the Field Collection of Geographical Names"*

28. **GAZETTEER**

State Gazetteers are in varying stages of completion and in Australia overseas queries are referred to the relevant State nomenclature body to provide adequate answers. The National Mapping Council and the Director in 1966 produced a document "Recommended Procedures for the Recording of Nomenclature on a National Basis".

It indicated that "several States and the Commonwealth, who are responsible for nomenclature within their respective spheres, may be expected to prepare and publish a name gazetteer of its own region. A national gazetteer may be formed by combining the various regional gazetteers".

In 1987, the AUSNOMA proposal was discussed initially - a computerised gazetteer format, which provided an updated version of what was envisaged by National Mapping in 1966. With the demise of the Division, replaced by the Australian Surveying & Land Information Group (AUSLIG) in the Department of Administrative Services and some objections from some of the State bodies, the AUSNOMA project and the production of the National Gazetteer appears to have been delayed and State Gazetteers are proceeding within the limitations imposed on State finances.

29. **MAPPING SHEETS**

The application of names to Mapping, particularly in featureless desert country, has been a common problem with State nomenclature bodies. Resolution 5/1986 of the CGNA in Adelaide in 1986 adopted the South Australia principals as amended by AUSLIG, then the Australian Survey Office.

The principles listed were:-

(1) The duplication of map sheet names must be avoided within the State for maps of the same scale and should be avoided nationally.

(2) The use of abbreviations should be avoided.

(3) The use of directional (eg North, South, Middle) or qualifying (eg Big, Little) words as part of the map sheet name should be avoided unless it is associated with the name of a geographical feature already in use. A unique name for the map sheet should be used where possible.

(4) The name for a map sheet should be selected during the later stages of the compilation of the map sheet to enable newly derived names to be given consideration.

It was further agreed that the sources of map sheet names be adopted on a national basis and include:-

(a) The 1:63 360 map sheet name.

(b) Named physical features (cultural and physical), including both European and Aboriginal names.

(c) Names of persons/groups of people directly associated with or having made a significant contribution to the area concerned - Aboriginal tribes, explorers, surveyors, (trigonometrical, geological, seismic or Army).

(d) Religious (mythological) names of the local Aboriginal tribe.

(e) Descriptive Aboriginal word/names associated with the area concerned, ie taken from the local Aboriginal language (eg taken from the Kokata Tribe - Buroo meaning grass).

(f) Names descriptive of natural life (ie common or scientific names of plans and animals) topographic form or geological and soil attributes.

(g) The names of early lessees/occupiers etc of the land in question.

(h) Early Surveyors-General or other persons who were associated with the early mapping or recording of nomenclature of the State.

30. **ONOMASTIC BIBLIOGRAPHY - TOPONYMY, ETYMOLOGY**

Initial efforts were made by the Chairman of the CGNA to compile a list of items with help from the National Library. A large number of books and articles since that listing in 1986 is now available and there is a need to up-date any material on an Onomastic Bibliography covering items of significance on Toponymy and Etymology. Once again, a comprehensive listing to include relevant work overseas on Toponymy etc needs a central disseminating point in Australia and logically text related to this particular subject should be available to those enquiring and should rightly be referred to in any set of Toponymic Guidelines. Efforts are being made to move towards a Regional Bibliography on these subjects to service members of UNGEGN in the South East Asia Region.

31. **DICTIONARY OF PLACE NAMES**

Place Names authorities are being pressed by printers, such as the Oxford and Cambridge University Press and others to select a series of local place names for inclusion in their text with their origin and meanings. Essentially, this can be done individually with each body, but the co-ordinating role on vetting a text of "Australian Place Names" presupposes that each such authority is consulted. Where this is not the case, some spurious origins of place names may occur in the text as they do in Encyclopaedias. Some principles need examination on this issue and may be covered in other CGNA papers. A National Toponymy Project is being considered at the University of Armidale, NSW and is aiming at a series of

Australian Place Names Dictionaries for publication at the centenary of Australian Federation in the year 2001. This issue will be discussed at CGNA in Wellington in October 1992.

32. **EXONYMS**

Australia has no recorded list of approved exonyms in use for national mapping. Well known exonyms widely used outside by the indigenous country are adopted by Australia. Where there is a difference occurring in spelling, between the adopted Australian exonym for "Singapore" and the exonym used by Indonesia "Singapura", the alternative name could be used in brackets.

Army Survey activities outside Australia adopt the preference by the other country to their indigenous spelling. Anglicised names or exonyms do not generally arise. The Naval Hydrographer adopts the IHO guidelines that "spelling of the relevant country be recorded".[28]

33. **GEOGRAPHIC NAMES SYSTEMS**

Various systems are being introduced in Australia by the State nomenclature authorities to record data in a computer - based names information file. These are accessed through the State authorities listed in Item 2.[29] [30]

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[28] *Advice from AUSLIG "no recorded specific policies on Exonyms"*

[29] *Extract from National Mapping Council - "Recommended Procedures for Recording of Nomenclature on a National Basis, 1966"*

[30] *Extract from GNIS, United States of America - "Toponymic Guidelines", Para 4.*